REMARKS

Prior to an examination of the present application, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment. The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to cancel claims 1-52 and add new claims 53-72. In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is kindly requested to contact Applicant's undersigned Attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any such matters so as to expedite allowance of this application.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE

FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT **ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975**

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March 11, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Akihiro MIYAZAKI et al.

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